

the fee is invariably stipulated by the company. "But," says another, "I will not make a physical examination, and place my name to a certificate, unless I be allowed to stipulate my fee, whether it be for an individual or a corporation"; and yet this same practitioner accepts a position with a railroad corporation and signs a contract to do an unknown quantity of professional work for a pass and perhaps fifteen or twenty dollars per month; frequently for the pass alone.

How quickly nature falls into revolt
When gold becomes her object.

The Doctor's Dream.—The medical man is the poorest paid "laborer in the moral vineyard"—and no wonder he occasionally falls into verse, since he cannot fall into estates. Here are some doggerel lines which I read the other day, and with which I will close my disjointed scrawl, for "a little nonsense now and then is relished" even by the wise physician.

Last evening I was talking
With a doctor aged and gray,
Who told me of a dream he had—
I think 'twas Christmas day.
While snoozing in his office
The vision came to view,
For he saw an angel enter,
Dressed in garments white and new.

Said the angel: "I'm from Heaven;
The Lord just sent me down
To bring you up to glory
And put on your golden crown.
You've been a friend to everyone,
And worked hard night and day;
You've doctored many thousands,
And from few received your pay.

"So we want you up in glory,
For you have labored hard,
And the good Lord is preparing
Your eternal, just reward."
Then the Angel and the doctor
Started up towards Glory's gate,
But when passing close to hades
The Angel murmured, "Wait;

"I have got a place to show you,
It's the hottest place in hell,
Where the ones who never paid you
In torment always dwell."
And behold, the doctor saw there
His old patients by the score,
And grabbing up a chair and fan,
He wished for nothing more.

But was bound to sit and watch them
As they'd sizzle, fry and burn;
And his eyes would rest on debtors
Whichever way they'd turn.
Said the Angel, "Come on, doctor;
There's the pearly gates I see."
But the doctor only muttered:
"This is Heaven enough for me."

He refused to go on further,
But preferred to sit and gaze
At the crowd of rank old deadheads
As they lay there in a blaze.
But just then the doctor's office clock
Cuckooed the hour for seven,
And he awoke to find himself
In neither hell nor Heaven.

PUBLICATIONS.

Blood-Pressure in Surgery; an Experimental and Clinical Research. The Cartwright Prize Essay for 1903. By George W. Crile, A. M., M. D. Published by J. B. Lippincott Company. The volume in question represents a large amount of research, undertaken with the object of, if possible, clearing up some of the confused ideas on this most important subject. "Investigation of the views as to the various causes of low blood-pressures in surgical cases, (*Can a "surgical case" have a low blood-pressure?*—Ed.) and of the methods employed in controlling the same in the various clinics of the surgical world, reveals a diversity of opinion as to the former and a diversity of method as to the latter." To combat this lowered blood-pressure, many things are used by different men. Digitalis, strychnin, nitroglycerin, ether, atropin, caffeine, ergotin, etc., are employed; "synergists and antagonists simultaneously, while some surgeons give no drugs." The work gives full data of the experiments in which all of these things were used, and also a large amount of data in connection with actual operations undertaken experimentally. It is a very complete essay, from the laboratory side, on this very grave question.

U. S. Department of Agriculture. Poultry as Food, by Helen W. Atwater.

Standards of Purity for Food Products. Circular No. 10, office of the Secretary. This is the first leaflet of the standards of this class, authorized under the act passed and approved June 3, 1902. That act authorized the department to determine standards for food-stuffs, but there is no accompanying authority to see that the standards so fixed shall be carried out. The present leaflet covers meats, milk and its various derivatives, sugar, candy, spices and cocoa.

Misoneism. A charming word employed by Dr. Archilles Rose, in the *Post-Graduate*, to indicate "the deeply rooted inclination of mankind to combat new ideas." He says: "We find in the history of the world, and especially in the history of medicine, innumerable instances in which new ideas have been persistently rejected, which Time has nevertheless proved to be of the greatest service to mankind." Agreed.

Prehistoric Trephining. *American Medicine*, Jan. 2d, 1904, prints some editorials giving an excellent resumé of this, to some of us, interesting subject. I may add to what is there set forth the fact that some three or four years ago I operated on several dogs, trephining the skull—in fact, performing the whole operation—with aboriginal flaked or chipped implements. The dogs recovered from the operation. One specimen is deposited in the Army Museum, Washington, D. C.; the others seem to have been lost. At the time they were performed, these were the first and only operations of the sort recorded. They were done to determine the then disputed point, whether an animal could be so operated upon and recover from the operation.—P. M. J.